

6/3/08

Mission of the Peak Oil Preparedness Task Force

To coordinate the assessment of the city of San Francisco's vulnerability to *energy price shocks* and to determine appropriate measures to mitigate municipal vulnerability and to draft a comprehensive response plan for recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

Bibliography

1. The Sustainability Plan for the City of San Francisco, Sustainable San Francisco, June, 1996
2. SF Department of Environment Annual Report, September, 1998
3. An Energy Resource Investment Strategy for the City of San Francisco, Prepared for SFPUC by Rocky Mountain Institute, January, 2002
4. Electricity Resource Plan- Choosing San Francisco's Energy Future, SF Department of the Environment, March, 2002
5. LAFCO Energy Services Study, RW Beck, July, 2002
6. Strategic Plan 2007-09, SF Department of Environment, December, 2006

Comments of Don Eichelberger

Report Structure

It feels to me like there is a lot of busy work being done by the committee that could overwhelm it in to ineffectiveness. The Committee needs to stay focused on its Mission, which is to tell the City how to mitigate energy price shocks. I do not believe we need a lot of quantitative analysis of how bad the situation is or will get. Rising gasoline prices are doing a lot of that work for us. We just need to decide how bad a problem we need to prepare for.

I say keep the scenario simple: \$5 per gallon gasoline, \$150/bbl for oil and predictable raises in prices of things related to oil, most specifically production and transportation costs for food and other necessities. Maybe a DOW below 10,000?

There also should be a commensurate raise in value of recyclables and support for micro-businesses in recycling.

Unpredictable electric energy prices are also likely due to fluctuations in natural gas availability and unpredictable hydro. What has been the effectiveness of energy conservation efforts? How can we do more? How much more is there to do? C CA = 350 MW. 75 with conservation. Peak approx 1000.

Department heads could be invited to help crunch numbers for how the above scenario might impact their department, and ideas they might offer to mitigate fiscal effects. Could help give them buy-in for the report's recommendations.

Many past studies have identified ways to reduce our carbon footprint and even ozone (remember the ozone hole?). We should focus on seeing what headway has been made to implement those recommendations, or at least those aimed at reducing carbon output. I have listed some of those recommendations below.

Then we need to try to quantify those benefits or non-benefits; and see if those efforts are being effective. If they are, we can work to enable adoption of more recommendations that have been made and will be made in the future.

The goal of reducing fossil fuel use should be a given and a starting point for this analysis.

Economic Analysis

Economic analyses should speak strongly to need for funding initiatives through carbon taxes. Should also speak out strongly against cap and trade, whose aim is not to end carbon production, but prolong it and allow potential market manipulations that reward polluters.

I believe in fines going in to public coffers, rather than pollution credits being sold and bought on some market that insiders will likely pillage without reducing carbon use in significant levels to make headway on peak oil and global warming, which are connected at the hip.

Twenty-five percent of the local budget is from state and federal funds. We need to push for carbon assessments at the state and federal level, at oil and gas well heads, auto registrations, production facilities, Internet server farms, airlines, ocean lines, any business whose practices utilize petroleum and/or produce warming gasses.

I would propose the committee draft and submit a Board Resolution ASAP opposing cap and trade pollution credits in favor of direct taxes directed in to a public goods fund for solar and mass transit.

Recommendations from the 1996 SF Sustainability Plan:

Economic Development

- Establish Task Force to oversee transition toward sustainability and integrate with regional planning
- Develop action strategy for sustainable development to identify opportunities and challenges
- Establish a paid city position to coordinate transition to sustainable development
- Strategies to draw sustainable industries and create jobs
- Study city planning, purchasing, zoning, and infrastructure modification for ways to promote sustainable development

- Sustainable business incubators
- Community development funds for entrepreneurs and sustainable development
- Higher education curricula on sustainable development and business
- ISO 1400 standards (?)
- Contract locally first
- Incentives for flexible employee practices
- Neighborhood project coordination- hire locally for local retrofits, installations, neighborhood gardens, etc.
- Support waste stream mining and development of local business that recycle or re-use scrap materials
- Neighborhood sustainability centers to coordinate activities
- Use real cost accounting to assess full costs of decisions

Energy, Climate Change and Ozone (!)

Remember Ozone? Proof headway can be made on human emissions when there is public and political will.

Recommendation:

- Energy Sustainability curriculum in public schools
- Web info on sustainability
- Recruit manufacturers of sustainable and renewable technologies to relocate in SF
- Access to small business loans for energy efficiency and renewables (Prop. I bonding)
- Lobby state for carbon tax and access to revenues for establishing local sustainability
- Incentives for low energy use
- Time of day pricing
- Energy efficiency guides on new construction
- Establish city certification of modifications to property for sustainability
- Mitigate heat islands through tree planting, asphalt reduction
- Energy saving efforts in public housing
- Energy audits to city departments and businesses
- Set city worker guidelines for conservation
- Establish regional co-op buying of renewable energy and conservation technologies
- Solar access ordinance and simplifying permitting
- Utility buy-back of solar production

Food and Agriculture

- Create neighborhood databases of resources

- Tax incentives for sustainable businesses as identified by Dept. of Env.
- Implement school curricula on food, nutrition and other sustainability practices
- Examine other municipal policies, actions and expenditures, such as transit routes, taxes, economic loan funds, zoning, housing development for their impact on food access
- MUNI services to accommodate shoppers- paratransit services.
- Establish agency to oversee food markets and neighborhood mini-markets
- Community development funds for co-op development
- Convert paved areas to green spaces
- Establish roof top gardens, paid for with community development grants
- Encourage farmers to sell locally
- Promote organic farming
- Assist land trusts to set aside agricultural lands close to population centers
- Establish demonstration farms at Treasure Island, Presidio, other places
- Require more green spaces in SF for gardening in housing and business construction
- Fruit tree in every yard competition
- Support local planting, care and harvesting of fruit and nut trees
- ID appropriate places to install bee hives
- Compost locally and distribute to local community gardens
- Business tax reductions for waste reductions and other sustainable practices